

To: The Committee on Energy and Technology

From: Elisabeth Holder, Middletown

Re: Please support H.B. No. 7156 and S.B. No. 875

To be included in the record for February 26, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Needleman and Arconti, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you in support of H.B. No. 7156, An Act Concerning the Procurement Of Energy Derived From Offshore Wind, and S.B. No. 875, An Act Expanding Connecticut's Offshore Wind Energy Portfolio. In light of the ever-increasing alarms being raised by recent reports on the urgency of addressing climate change, it is vital that Connecticut rise to meet this challenge.

The 2018 passage of bills to set stricter targets on greenhouse gas emissions and increase renewable energy was encouraging indeed. Governor Lamont's timetable improves on these goals with its ambitious renewable target of 100% by 2050.

Setting an interim goal of 2000 MW of offshore wind by 2030 should be achievable and these bills should state this goal clearly. Prioritizing such specifics will make us competitive with Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island – all of which are moving forward vigorously with offshore wind programs. We want to create good jobs, encourage investment, and maintain leadership in this industry going forward.

In addition, there should be a clear commitment to health and safety concerns, as well as to environmental protections. I would urge you to be sure that the DEEP Commissioner considers all appropriate health and safety factors when looking at proposals. All proposals should also be examined with regard to their impacts on wildlife, natural ecosystems, and natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Elisabeth Holder
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